

## The Madagascan genus *Paramimegralla* Hennig, 1937 (Diptera: Micropezidae: Taeniapterinae)

by

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### ABSTRACT

*Paramimegralla* Hennig is redescribed, and its affinities and distribution are discussed. The genus is revised to include five species, one of which is left undescribed. Two new species are described: *P. nigra* and *P. stuckenbergi*.

### INTRODUCTION

The Madagascan Micropezidae have been little studied, although I recently (Barraclough 1991) reviewed the fauna and described the genus *Stiltissima* for two new species. *Paramimegralla* is one of six taeniapterine genera recorded from Madagascar and has close affinity with *Stiltissima* Barraclough and *Rainieria* Rondani. It is, however, immediately distinguished from *Stiltissima* by having three pairs of fronto-orbital setae and from *Rainieria* by having only one or occasionally two inconspicuous, short setulae on the lateroventral margin of the propleuron (cf. Figs 12 & 13 in Barraclough (1991)). *Stiltissima* is the only other Madagascan genus with the propleural vestiture noticeably reduced, this being either completely absent or visible only as a few minute setulae.

Prior to this revision, *Paramimegralla* was known only from the holotypes of *P. madagascariensis* and *P. vadoni*, described by Hennig (1937) and Verbeke (1956) respectively. The former holotype, and probably that of *vadoni* (in which the abdominal apex is missing), is female. Thus, neither Hennig or Verbeke would have seen the strikingly compressed basal two segments of the male fore tarsi, which I assume occur in these species. I believe that this feature will prove to be a strong autapomorphy defining the genus. Only *P. stuckenbergi* sp. n. and undescribed sp. 1 are known from males, and unfortunately the fore tarsi are missing in the material of the latter species. Virtually all recently collected material of *Paramimegralla* was taken in malaise traps in montane rain-forest of the Ranomafana National Park near Fianarantsoa. This technique appears to have successfully collected females only and consequently few males are considered in this revision.

*Paramimegralla* and *Stiltissima* are restricted to montane rainforest in northeastern Madagascar, and are probably the rarest described genera of Taeniapterinae in the Afrotropical Region. Deforestation could be threatening the survival of both genera.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was based on the examination of pinned adult Taeniopterinae loaned from the following depositories (acronyms given in parentheses):

Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN)  
Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (MRAC)  
Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg (NMSA)  
The Natural History Museum, London (BMNH)  
United States National Museum, Washington (USNM)

Morphological terminology is based on Barraclough (1991); reference should be made to this paper where necessary. The postnotum refers to all the parts behind and below the scutellum (the metanotum of some authors). Descriptive detail of the unique damaged holotype of *P. madagascariensis* was supplemented from the original description.

Bilaterally symmetrical structures are described in the singular. The label data of holotypes are quoted exactly as they appear, although supplementary information is sometimes given in parentheses; a slash (/) denotes the end of a line of print and a semicolon separates data quoted on different labels. Coordinates are given in square parentheses for the locality data of holotypes, or in instances where there are several different localities with a single locality name. Holotype measurements are given in parentheses following the range for other specimens examined. Measurements of the head and thorax exclude the antennae; wing length was measured from the humeral crossvein to the wing-tip.

Sternite 5 and the male postabdomen are not figured, given that *P. stuckenbergi* is the only named species currently known from males. A comparative study of sternite 5 is likely to elucidate valuable specific characters, particularly in terms of shape and vestiture.

*Paramimegralla* Hennig, 1937

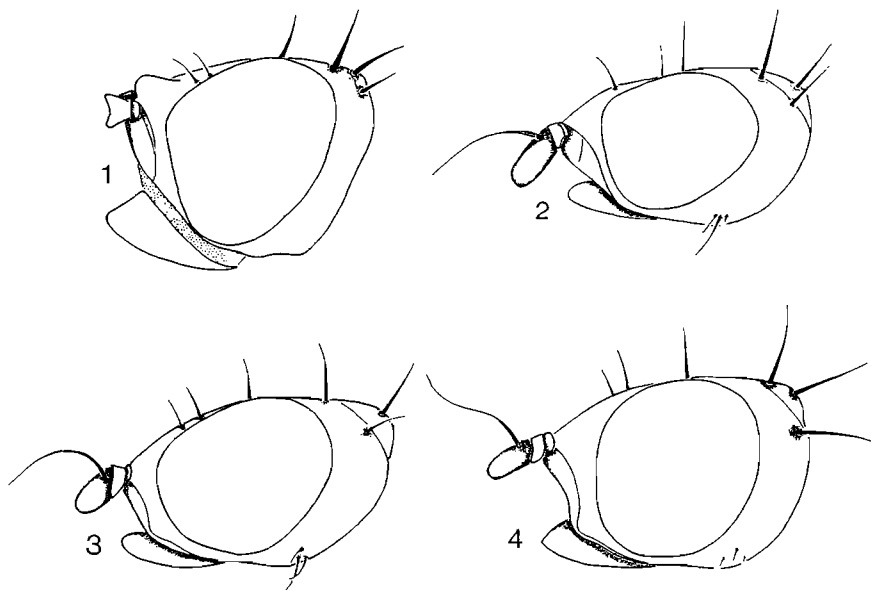
*Paramimegralla* Hennig, 1937: 46. Type species: *Paramimegralla madagascariensis* Hennig, 1937, by original designation.

Redescription (based on both sexes):

**Head:** Longer than or same length as height in profile, with moderately to well developed profrons; profrons and facial profile extending moderately to markedly anterior to eye, distance two-thirds to subequal to length of antenna. Peristomal margin bare or with minute setulae visible at high magnification only. Prelabrum often protruding noticeably in profile. Facial region small, membranous to relatively well sclerotised. Antenna with first and second segments clearly visible in profile, length of third segment  $1.3\text{--}1.8 \times$  basal width; arista very slender and entirely bare, only about basal one-tenth slightly swollen. Profrons not modified, not grooved medially or between antennal bases. Ocelli situated about midway between insertions of postvertical setae and antennal bases. Mesofrons relatively weakly differentiated, particularly on anterior third of frons, always fairly broad anterior to ocelli but often sharply narrowed posteriorly towards upper occipital margin, pruinescence barely visible ranging to conspicuously present. Postvertical

and both inner and outer vertical setae present; 1 posterior fronto-orbital inserted adjacent to ocelli, although sometimes slightly anterior or posterior to ocellar region; 2 usually relatively closely approximated anterior fronto-orbitals positioned about midway between ocelli and antennal bases.

**Thorax:** Propleuron fairly well developed, noticeably differentiated from pronotum, at least 1 relatively elongate anteroventrally directed setula on ventral margin, sometimes an additional 1 or (rarely) 2 short setulae adjacent to longer setula. Mesothoracic spiracle fairly well developed, height half to just less than entire length of third antennal segment. Mesonotum not sharply pointed or strongly protruberant anteriorly, although sometimes somewhat bulbous in female; weakly to moderately developed transverse groove in median section of mesoscutum connects lateral transverse sutures. Scutellum directed posteriorly, postnotum obliquely angled to abdominal base such that posterior scutellar margin is positioned slightly to well anterior to thorax-abdomen junction. Chaetotaxy: 2 notopleurals, 1 supra-alar, 1 postalar, 1 posterior dorsocentral, 2 upwardly directed and parallel to divergent scutellars. Legs not unusually elongate, nor particularly so in male. Hind femur  $1.8-2.0 \times$  length of thorax in male, slender and slightly narrower in apical third to half, subequal to width of mid femur in profile, and without ventral spinules. Male fore tarsi assumed to be modified (only specimens of *P. stuckenbergi* available), basal two segments highly compressed. Wing:  $R_{2+3}$  inserted on costal margin at about half to two thirds distance between  $R_1$  and  $R_{4+5}$ ; r-m fairly strongly angled to virtually straight; anal cell acutely angled apically, anal vein  $1.0-2.0 \times$  length of anal crossvein.

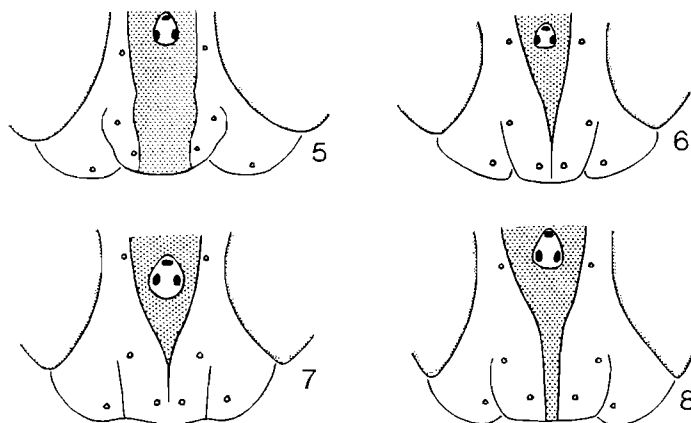


Figs 1-4. *Paramimegralla* species, head profiles (holotypes except *P. vadoni*), showing setae on frontal plate and vertex and development of setulae on anteroventral section of occiput (vestiture otherwise omitted). 1. *P. madagascariensis* Hennig (third antennal segment missing). 2. *P. nigra* sp. n. 3. *P. stuckenbergi* sp. n. 4. *P. vadoni* Verbeke.

*Male abdomen:* Sternite 1 well developed, entirely sclerotised; apical section of sternite 2 and sternites 3–4 greatly reduced. Sternite 5 with spinules, these restricted to inner surface of each lobe. Cercus and particularly epandrium with longer hairing apically.

#### Key to the species of *Paramimegralla* Hennig

- 1 Anterior fronto-orbital setae pale and weakly sclerotised. Profrons not ventrally inclined, only slightly lower than postfrons in profile (Fig. 1). Mesofrontal region posterior to ocelli broad and continuous to upper occipital margin, width here about  $3,0 \times$  that of ocellar triangle (Fig. 5). Postfrons weakly developed, length behind posterior extremity of eye well less than length of third antennal segment (Fig. 1). Mesonotum with anterolateral margins noticeably sharply angled in female (Fig. 9). Wing entirely very pale tinged, with narrow subapical hyaline streak (Fig. 13) ..... **madagascariensis** Hennig
- Anterior fronto-orbital setae dark and strongly sclerotised. Profrons ventrally inclined, moderately to markedly lower than postfrons in profile (Figs 2–4). Mesofrontal region posterior to ocelli sharply narrowed at or before upper occipital margin, width here usually less than that of ocellar triangle (Figs 6–8). Postfrons weakly to strongly developed, length behind posterior extremity of eye  $0,9\text{--}1,3 \times$  length of third antennal segment. Mesonotum with anterolateral margins smoothly rounded (Figs 10 & 11) or at most very slightly angled in female. Wing not almost entirely pale tinged, always hyaline with 3–4 distinct transverse fasciae (eg. Fig. 12) ..... 2
- 2 Mid and hind femora without patterning, entirely yellow. Notopleuron with at most one posterior seta ..... Undescribed sp. 1
- Mid and hind femora either pale with dark banding or dark with pale banding. Notopleuron always with the usual 2 setae ..... 3
- 3 Thorax entirely dark brown to black with some metallic reflections. Mid and hind femora dark brown to black with yellow banding. Wing with cell  $R_5$  closed or virtually closed at wing margin (Fig. 12) ..... 4
- Thoracic ground colour yellow-brown with elongate-ovoid black marking on anteroventral margin of sternopleuron; mesonotum (particularly postsutural region) and postnotum sometimes dark brown to black. Femora entirely yellow-brown. Wing with cell  $R_5$  always narrowly open at margin (Fig. 14) ..... **vadoni** Verbeke
- 4 Head with anterior margin of profrons, and entire parafacial and epistome, dark brown to black; pruinescence inconspicuously silver to brown on mesofrons only. Mid femur mostly dark, without yellow band at mid-length ... **nigra** sp. n.
- Head with anterior margin of profrons, and entire parafacial and epistome, strikingly yellow to pale orange; pruinescence densely yellow to pale brown on anterior half of frons and on entire mesofrons. Mid femur dark with yellow band at about mid-length ..... **stuckenbergi** sp. n.



Figs 5–8. *Paramimegralla* species, diagrammatic dorsal view of head posterior to ocellar triangle, showing setal pores and development of mesofrons (stippled). 5. *P. madagascariensis* Hennig. 6. *P. nigra* sp. n. 7. *P. stuckenbergi* sp. n. 8. *P. vadoni* Verbeke.

*Paramimegralla madagascariensis* Hennig, 1937

Figs 1, 5, 9, 13

*Paramimegralla madagascariensis* Hennig, 1937: 47; Verbeke, 1951: 101; Steyskal, 1980: 581.

Holotype ♀ (BMNH): MADAGASCAR: 'Type' [circular label, red periphery]; 'Paramimegralla / madagascariensis, / Hennig / Examined & det / W. Hennig, 1936'; 'Paramimegralla / madagascariensis / n.g. n.sp.'; 'Madag' [underlined]; '684'; 'Madagascar. / W.W. Saunders. / B.M. 1868.4.'; 'Typus' [red paper]. The femur and tibia of the right mid leg are glued to the plastic strip beneath the specimen.

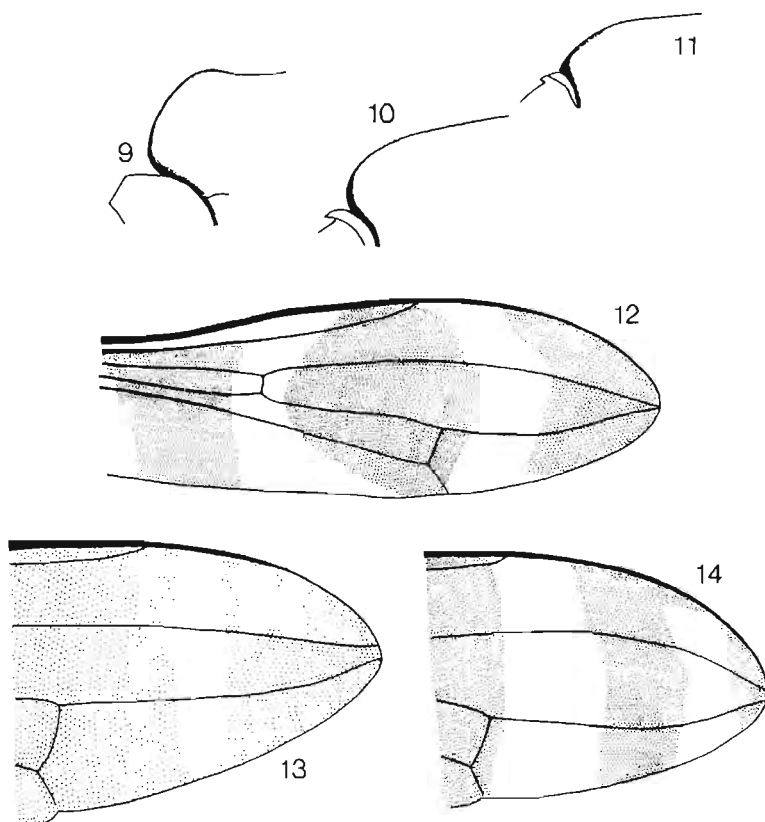
Male: Unknown.

Female: Dimensions (in mm): Head/thorax (6,6); wing (9,0).

*Colour/Pruinescence*: Antenna, anterior margin of profrons, much of upper half of parafacial, and mesofrons (particularly anterior half to two-thirds) black. Occiput dark brown to blackish on upper half, head otherwise yellow to orange-brown: pruinescence silver on parafacial, frontal plates, dorsomedially and anteroventrally on occipital region, and on antenna and palpus; silver to brown on mesofrons. Thorax predominantly dark brown, but lower margin of propleuron partly black; pruinescence silver to yellow on pleuron and brown on mesonotum (scutellum excepted). Legs yellow with pale to dark brown markings; fore femur dark brown banded at mid length, mid and hind femora with 2 bands positioned at third and two-thirds distance from base, all femora apically tinged with brown; fore tibia probably mostly brown, mid and hind tibiae brown basally and apically (all tarsi and hind tibiae missing from holotype). Wing very pale brown tinged, with indistinct and narrow subapical hyaline region extending transversely to near hind margin (Fig. 13). Abdomen brown, sometimes partly blackish along posterior tergal margins; pruinescence faintly silver at base and/or apex of most of basal 4 tergites.

**Head:** Facial region fairly strongly sclerotised. Lower occiput without setulae anteroventrally (Fig. 1). Postfrons weakly developed (Fig. 1), length behind posterior extremity of eye (assumed) well less than length of third antennal segment (missing from holotype). Mesofrontal region posterior to ocelli broad and continuous to upper occipital margin (Fig. 5). Posterior fronto-orbital seta positioned posterior to hindmost ocellus; anterior fronto-orbitals pale, weakly sclerotised. Profrons not ventrally inclined, slightly lower than postfrons in profile (Fig. 1).

**Thorax:** Sternopleural venter with 2 pale setae differentiated anterior to mid coxa. Mesonotum with anterior margin strongly elevated, anterolateral margins fairly sharply angled (Fig. 9). Vein r-m obliquely angled. Cell  $R_5$  narrowly open, distance between  $R_{2+3}$  and  $R_{4+5}$  along costal margin about  $0,5 \times$  r-m length (Fig. 13).



Figs 9-14. *Paramimegralla* species, thoracic and wing characters. 9-11. Female mesonotum (stippled), anterior profile. 9. *P. madagascariensis* Hennig. 10-11. Variable development in *P. nigra* sp. n. 12-14. Wing venation and patterning. 12. *P. nigra* sp. n., showing basal, medial and apical fasciae. 13. *P. madagascariensis* Hennig, showing transverse subapical hyaline region. 14. *P. vadoni* Verbeke, showing development of medial, subapical and apical fasciae (apical fascia sometimes not visible).

Remarks: This species is known only from the female holotype. No locality data within Madagascar are given in Hennig's description or on the holotype labels. The antennae, tarsal segments and hind tibiae are missing.

***Paramimegralla nigra* sp. n.**

Figs 2, 6, 10–11, 12

Holotype ♀ (USNM): MADAGASCAR: 'MADAGASCAR: Prov. / Fianarantsoa, 7 km / W Ranomafana [21°15'S:47°25'E], 1100 m / 8–21 October 1988 / W. E. Steiner'; 'Malaise trap in / small clearing. / montane / rain forest'; 'HOLOTYPE ♀ / *Paramimegralla* / *nigra* / BARRACLOUGH' [rectangular card, red perimeter]. In USNM.

Etymology: *L. niger* = black, dark coloured. Refers to the generally dark ground colouring of this species.

Male: Unknown.

Female: Dimensions (in mm): Head/thorax 4,5–5,4 (4,5); wing 6,0–7,7 (6,0).

*Colour/Pruinescence*: Head (pale proboscis venter excepted) entirely dark brown to black, except facial region and antenna sometimes entirely or partly pale; pruinescence silver to brown, little evident but most noticeable on mesofrons, antenna, parafacial/facial region and palpus. Thorax very dark brown to black, pleuron with faint blue or green metallic reflections; pruinescence silver on coxae, on pleuron between wing base and mid coxa and on postnotum, silver-brown to dark brown on mesonotum. Legs mostly dark brown to black; trochanters yellow; femora yellow apically, hind femur additionally so at mid-length; tibiae dark brown, although mid and hind pairs sometimes paler; tarsi pale to dark brown, but fore tarsus white to cream and dark tinged basally (apical 3 segments rarely dark). Wing hyaline with 3 brown to dark brown transverse fasciae, these basal, medial and apical, each with moderately to strongly curved margins (Fig. 12). Abdomen dark brown to black, tergites 1 and 5–6 often partly or entirely bluish metallic; pruinescence silver over junction of first 2 tergites and more broadly so over junction of tergites 2 and 3, and otherwise brown on intervening section of tergite 2 and over remainder of tergite 3 and much or all of tergite 4.

*Head*: Facial region entirely membranous. Lower occiput with 1–3 setulae differentiated anteroventrally (Fig. 2). Postfrons moderately developed, length behind posterior extremity of eye subequal to or slightly less than length of third antennal segment (Fig. 2). Mesofrontal region posterior to ocelli strongly narrowed to form v-shaped posterior extremity well anterior to upper occipital margin (Fig. 6). Posterior fronto-orbital seta variably positioned, ranging from posterior to well anterior to hindmost ocellus; anterior fronto-orbitals dark, strongly sclerotised. Profrons ventrally inclined, moderately to markedly lower than postfrons in profile (Fig. 2).

*Thorax*: Sternopleural venter with 1 dark seta differentiated anterior to mid coxa. Mesonotum with anterior margin weakly (Fig. 11) to moderately (Fig. 10)

elevated, anterolateral margins smoothly rounded. Vein r-m straight or slightly angled. Cell R<sub>5</sub> very narrowly open or just closed at margin (eg. Fig. 12).

Other material examined: MADAGASCAR: 4 ♀ paratypes, 1 with same label data as holotype, otherwise 15–24.ix.1988, 1–7.xi.1988 & 20–24.iii.1990 (1 in NMSA, others in USNM); 1 ♀, Montagne d'Ambre, Station 79, v.1972, Alluaud & Jeannel, 800 m (MNHN).

Remarks: Although not referred to in the description above, I have seen a specimen (collected on 20–24.iii.1990) with the fore femur and tibia unusually pale on one leg only. I have assumed that this unilateral colour variation is teratological. This specimen is also unusual in that the third antennal segment, parafacial and facial region are paler than the remainder of the head. The Montagne d'Ambre female has similar colouring, although the third antennal segment is only paler basally and is therefore intermediate between the pale and dark forms.

***Paramimegralla stuckenbergi* sp. n.**

Figs 3, 7

Holotype ♂ (NMSA): MADAGASCAR: 'Perinet [18°56'S:48°25'E] / Madagascar / Dec. 1955 / B. Stuckenberg'; 'HOLOTYPE ♂ / *Paramimegralla stuckenbergi* / BARRACLOUGH' [rectangular card, red perimeter]. In NMSA (type no. 471).

Etymology: Named for Dr Brian Stuckenberg, who collected the type series of this species.

Male: Dimensions: Head/thorax 4,8 (4,8) mm; wing 6,7 (6,7) mm.

*Colour/Pruinescence*: Antenna (except predominantly dark arista), anterior margin of profrons, parafacial, facial region, epistome, anterior half of prelabrum and palpus strikingly yellow to pale orange; head otherwise brown to very dark brown; pruinescence densely yellow to pale brown on anterior half of frons and on entire mesofrons, otherwise inconspicuously yellow and noticeable on antenna and palpus. Thorax predominantly dark brown; pruinescence densely silver to yellow-brown on anterior half of mesonotum and inconspicuously silver on coxae, pleuron between wing base and mid coxa and on postnotum. Coxae dark brown; trochanters yellow to brown; fore femur yellow-brown with indistinct brown markings; mid and hind femora brown to dark brown with 2 narrow yellow bands at mid-length and apically respectively; fore tibia yellow, tinged with brown basally and apically; mid and hind tibiae entirely yellow; fore tarsus dark brown, except apical segment yellow; mid and hind tarsi entirely yellow. Wing patterning as in *P. nigra*. Abdomen very dark brown to black; pruinescence silver over apex of tergite 1/base of tergite 2 (narrowly so) and broadly so over basal section of tergite 3, otherwise yellow on epandrium.

*Head*: Facial region partly membranous. Lower occiput with 1–3 setulae differentiated anteroventrally (Fig. 3). Postfrons strongly developed, length behind posterior extremity of eye about 1,2–1,3 × length of third antennal segment (Fig. 3). Mesofrontal region posterior to ocelli strongly narrowed to



form v-shaped posterior extremity well anterior to upper occipital margin (Fig. 7). Posterior fronto-orbital seta positioned anterior to hindmost ocellus (Fig. 7); anterior fronto-orbitals dark, strongly sclerotised. Profrons ventrally inclined, moderately lower than postfrons in profile (Fig. 3).

*Thorax*: Sternopleural venter with 1 dark seta differentiated anterior to mid coxa. Vein r-m slightly angled. Cell  $R_5$  just closed at margin.

Female: Unknown.

Other material examined: MADAGASCAR: 1 (paratype), same label data as holotype (NMSA).

*Paramimegralla vadoni* Verbeke, 1956

Figs 4, 8, 14

*Paramimegralla vadoni* Verbeke, 1956: 479; Steyskal, 1980: 582.

Male: Unknown.

Female: Dimensions (in mm): Head/thorax 5.8–6.4; wing 7.5–7.6.

*Colour/Pruinescence*: Head predominantly dark yellow-brown, although ocellar triangle black and anterior one- to two-thirds of frontal plate distinctly dark brown, darker form with occipital region, much of frontal plate (anterior margin excepted) and posterior half of mesofrons brown to dark brown; pruinescence silver, visible at certain angles only on posterior half of mesofrons, facial region and particularly parafacial. Thorax yellow to pale brown, anteroventral margin of sternopleuron with posteriorly directed elongate-ovoid black marking, postnotum and scutellum with dark median streak, darker form with broad dark brown to black median region on postnotum and scutellum, and mesonotum postsuturally mainly dark brown to black with 2 indistinct vittae and presuturally with single median vitta extending to near anterior margin; pruinescence silver on coxae, on pleuron between wing base and mid coxa and on postnotum. Legs yellow to yellow-brown; fore coxa sometimes slightly darker, fore and hind tarsi sometimes with apical 2–3 segments dark. Wing hyaline with 4 pale brown transverse fasciae, these basal, medial, subapical and apical (Fig. 14), apical fascia very narrow and sometimes barely developed, margins of fasciae usually slightly to moderately curved. Abdomen brown to dark brown, tergites 4–6 often at least partly black; pruinescence silver, sometimes visible over junction between tergites 1 and 2 and over anterior half of tergite 3.

*Head*: Facial region weakly to moderately sclerotised. Lower occiput with 1–3 reduced setulae anteroventrally (Fig. 4), although these weakly differentiated from other occipital vestiture. Postfrons weakly to moderately developed, length behind posterior extremity of eye ranging from just less than to subequal to length of third antennal segment (Fig. 4). Mesofrontal region posterior to ocelli sharply narrowed anterior to or at upper occipital margin (Fig. 8), width here sometimes reaching that of ocellar triangle. Posterior fronto-orbital seta positioned coincident with or just posterior to hindmost ocellus; anterior fronto-orbitals dark, strongly sclerotised. Profrons ventrally inclined, moderately to markedly lower than postfrons in profile (Fig. 4).

*Thorax*: Sternopleural venter often with 1–2 dark setulae and 1–3 pale setulae differentiated anterior to mid coxa. Mesonotum with anterior margin moderately elevated, anterolateral margins sometimes slightly angled. Vein r-m virtually straight. Cell  $R_5$  very narrowly open, distance between  $R_{2+3}$  and  $R_{4+5}$  along costal margin  $0,3-0,5 \times r-m$  length (Fig. 14).

Other material examined: MADAGASCAR: 2 ♀, Fampanambo, xi.1961, J. Vadon (MRAC); 1 ♀, Perinet, xii.1955, B. Stuckenberg (NMSA); 2 ♀, 7 km W. Ranomafana [ $18^{\circ}56'S:48^{\circ}25'E$ ], 22–31.x.1988, W. E. Steiner, 1100 m, malaise trap in small clearing, montane rain forest (USNM); 1 ♀, same label data, except 8–21.x.1988 (USNM).

Remarks: The holotype is assumed to be deposited in MNHN, but I have not been able to borrow it. The sex was not given in the original description, possibly because the abdominal apex was already missing; it is likely to be female.

As noted in the above redescription, the species seems to comprise at least two colour morphs, although further material may present a continual range of variation between the two extremes. The holotype, collected by J. Vadon at 'Ambanidrambona' is almost certainly the darker morph (I have examined the original description in detail) and is very likely similar to the females collected at Fampanambo by Vadon. Both localities (undetectable in gazeteers available to me) can be assumed to be near Maroantsetra, a town at the head of the Bay of Antongil in northeastern Madagascar, which is further evidence for the conspecificity of the material. This can be deduced from the fact that Vadon's collecting took place mainly in the vicinity of Maroantsetra, where he lived (B. R. Stuckenberg, *pers. comm.*).

I believe it is unlikely that the colour morphs represent different species; if they do, this could only be confirmed by the examination of the male genitalia of each morph. Although the mesonotal and postnotal colour differences are quite striking, the pale morph often *does* have the median section of the postnotum and scutellum dark. Other intraspecific variation of note is the variable development of the apical transverse fascia, which can either be fully developed across the wing-tip, partially developed or absent.

#### Undescribed sp. 1

Material examined: MADAGASCAR: 1 ♂, Marojejy, rés. nat. int. XII, Anjanaharibe S., iii.1961, P. Soga, 1600 m (MNHN).

Remarks: This new species is known only from a single male in poor condition: lacking three legs, the left wing and the right third antennal segment. I have left it undescribed until additional material in better condition becomes available. Its relationships remain uncertain, although it may have distant affinity with *P. madagascariensis* (for diagnoses refer to species key).

Undescribed sp. 1 has generally dark ground colour (of thorax and abdomen) with strikingly contrasted pale femora and the wing with four transverse brown fasciae. It is the only species with entirely pale (ie. lacking banding) mid and hind femora. A striking feature which immediately distinguishes it from other congeners

is the lack of anterior notopleural setae. I suspect, however, that the above specimen may be teratological and that further material may have the normal complement of setae. This is suggested by the loss of even the posterior seta on one side.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to Allen Norrbom and Warren Steiner (USNM) for the loan of *Paramimegralla* material collected during a survey of the Ranomafana National Park. John Chainey (BMNH) kindly loaned me the holotype of *Paramimegralla madagascariensis*, the type species. Dr Brian Stuckenberg provided me with information about localities in Madagascar and the provenance of material collected by Mr J. Vadon; he also critically reviewed this paper.

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